

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, at noon today, back in my district in Pennsylvania, there is a funeral service for Scott Bashium, a brave policeman who died last week. His partner, James Saieva, was critically injured. Ultimately, the shooter died of suicide.

Had we had a functional mental health system, lives could have been saved. Families could have been spared the mourning.

The shooter's background is all too familiar: prior criminal convictions, mental health issues, and not taking medications.

How many more lives will be lost before we act?

This broken Federal and State approach to treating mental illness will not fix itself. It must be overhauled with the leadership of a new office of Assistant Secretary of Mental Health and Substance Use; changes to HIPAA laws that currently block families from helping, and fixing the crisis shortage of providers and hospitals.

Waiting will not work. Token or superficial changes won't work. Continuing to fund the current mess won't work. If anyone thinks it does, then I suggest you get on the phone and explain this to the officer's widow and children that everything is just fine.

Or the Senate can act and pass the changes we passed in H.R. 2646, the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act, which the House passed with near unanimous vote in July. Lives are at stake. Time is running short; and for Officer Bashium's family, time has run out.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF STANFORD LIPSEY, BUFFALO NEWS PUBLISHER

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the legacy of longtime Buffalo News publisher, Stanford Lipsey. Mr. Lipsey, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, will be most remembered for his significant contributions to the field of journalism. As the Buffalo News publisher, he saved it from closure, revamped its content and quality, and appointed the first woman editor in Buffalo News history.

Mr. Lipsey has also been a tireless advocate for projects that have contributed to Buffalo's revitalization—from leading efforts to preserve our architectural treasures to securing funding for our prestigious cancer center. He donated over 2 million books to low-income children and invested in projects like Re-Tree Western New York that helped to reforest our neighborhood parks after a surprise October snowstorm.

Mr. Lipsey's vision for Buffalo was one of hope. He recognized the city's potential, and he helped people of the city to realize their own potential. Although he was a native of Omaha, Ne-

braska, he loved his adopted city of Buffalo, New York. As we continue to work towards a better Buffalo, I hope to honor his dedication to our city.

MINNESOTA'S LENDERS HELPING TOMORROW'S BIG BUSINESS

(Mr. EMMER of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and thank the many banks and credit unions in Minnesota's Sixth District who were named a top Minnesota Lender by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

These lenders include BankVista, Woodlands National Bank, Minnesota Business Finance Corporation, KleinBank, and the Central Minnesota Credit Union.

Promoting small business is vastly important to our State's success. Our great State of Minnesota would not be where it is today without the contributions of these banks and credit unions. Today's small business is tomorrow's big business. Great Minnesota companies like Medtronic and Best Buy exist and have become the powerhouse companies they are today because of the vital support of local lenders.

Our community banks and credit unions ensure that business owners and entrepreneurs have the funds necessary to build a business from an idea, creating new jobs and opportunities for Minnesotans from all walks of life. We must never underestimate the importance of our community banks and credit unions, and I am proud to stand here today to recognize their work.

Again, congratulations, and thank you for being an important part of our community and our State.

REJECT STEVE BANNON'S WHITE HOUSE APPOINTMENT

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, I led 168 of my colleagues in sending a letter to President-elect Donald Trump, asking that he rescind his decision to appoint alt-right leader Steve Bannon to serve as White House Chief Strategist. This appointment undermines the President-elect's pledge to bring our country together.

As executive chairman of Breitbart News, Mr. Bannon repeatedly and aggressively pushed stories that promote anti-Semitism, xenophobia, and racism. During an interview last summer, Mr. Bannon bragged that Breitbart was "the platform for the alt-right," a movement that upholds White nationalism while strongly rejecting diversity in any form.

Under his leadership, Breitbart has referred to a leading Republican columnist as a renegade Jew. He suggested that young Muslims in the West are a ticking time bomb. He declared

that the Confederate flag proclaims a glorious heritage, and he praised the alt-right as a smarter version of old-school racist skinheads.

I hope that the President-elect and Republican Members of Congress will join us in good faith in rejecting Mr. Bannon's appointment and the ugly, divisive message it sends to so many across our country.

THE LATEST COLOMBIA FARC AGREEMENT

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, despite some modest revisions in Colombia's new deal with the FARC, a U.S.-designated terrorist organization, this is still a sweetheart deal for these narcoguerrillas.

Under this deal, FARC members will still be allowed to run for public office; and I worry that while in office, FARC officials will undermine the progress made in Colombia.

We have already seen a significant increase in drug trafficking from Colombia since negotiations with the FARC began, and there should be no doubt that the FARC, one of the largest narcoterrorist groups in the world, is responsible for this increase.

What kind of increase in drug trafficking should we expect if these narcoterrorists are given even more power and more influence in Colombia's government?

Mr. Speaker, the Colombian people rejected the prior FARC agreement, and I believe that their concerns must be addressed before any revised agreement is finalized.

President Santos will be here in Washington to meet with Members of Congress tomorrow, and I hope he addresses our concerns.

REJECT STEVE BANNON'S WHITE HOUSE APPOINTMENT

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleague, Congressman CICILLINE, and 158 others in urging President-elect Trump to dismiss the notion of Steve Bannon as being stationed outside the Oval Office.

I have been deeply disturbed by the increase in hate speech and intimidation directed at people based on color, religion, gender, and sexual orientation, as well as outbreaks of violence.

Oregon's largest school district just sent a message home with the children dealing with families because of the problems there and the need to unite to prevent further activity.

One thing we can all agree on is that the protection of all our citizens, especially our children, is not a partisan issue. Violence and destruction of public property accomplishes nothing. I